

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on April 28, 2006. Claims 1-10, 12, and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,467,711, to Michel. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in light of the Michel patent, further in view of official notice of a shock absorber being elastomeric. Claims 1, 5, 7-10, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,793,168, to Pedersen, in view of the Michel patent. Claims 3-4, 6, and 12 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, the claims have been amended to rewrite the allowable claims in independent form. Claim 3 has been rewritten to include the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 6 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claims 1 and 5. Claim 8 has been rewritten to include the limitations of allowable claim 12, and is therefore believed allowable. Claims 1, 5, 12, and 20 are hereby canceled.

Claims 2 and 7 have been amended to be dependent from allowable claim 3. Therefore, claims 2, 4, and 7, dependent from claim 3, are believed allowable.

Claims 9 and 10 are dependent from amended claim 8, and are therefore believed allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 2-4 and 6-10 be deemed allowable at this time and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If any other fees are due in connection with this application, the Patent Office is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 19-1351. If such withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (441900-37787) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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